## CAHILL GORDON & REINDEL LLP

SUITE 950 1990 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-1181

EIGHTY PINE STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005-1702 (212) 701-3000 FAX: (212) 269-5420

TELEPHONE (202) 862-8900 FACSIMILE (202) 862-8958

AUGUSTINE HOUSE 6A AUSTIN FRIARS LONDON, ENGLAND EC2N 2HA (011) 44.20.7920.9800 FAX: (011) 44.20.7920.9825

ANGELA F. COLLINS

202-862-8930 | acollins@cahill.com

May 5, 2014

## Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

> CC Docket No. 00-257 - Notification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120 for Re: Birch Communications, Inc. and dishNET Wireline, LLC

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Birch Communications, Inc. ("BCI"), on behalf of itself and the subsidiaries noted below (collectively, "Birch"), and dishNET Wireline, LLC ("dishNET") (Birch and dishNET collectively, the "Applicants"), hereby notify the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e)(1) of the pending transfer of certain assets and customers to Birch.

**Parties to the Transaction**: The Applicants filed a request for approval of the transfer of certain assets and customers of dishNET to Birch. That request is pending under WC Docket No. 14-65 and File Nos. ITC-ASG-20140421-00135 and ITC-ASG-20140422-00139.

The following entities are involved in this transaction:

dishNET Wireline, LLC

Birch Communications, Inc.

Birch Telecom, Inc.

wasta nameta mana manaka manaka manaka manaka manaka nameta manaka manak

Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications

Type of Telecommunications Services Provided to Affected Subscribers: dishNET provides interstate and international telecommunications services to its subscribers. The customer transfer involves customers that currently receive services from dishNET under its "Liberty-Bell Telecom" trade name in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. It does not include the residential customers receiving services from dishNET.

<u>Planned Date of Transfer</u>: dishNET customers will be transferred to Birch on or around June 5, 2014.

<u>Certification of Compliance</u>: Birch hereby certifies that it will comply with the requirement to provide advance notice to affected dishNET customers in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e)(3), with the obligations specified in that notice as applicable, and with the other statutory and Commission requirements that apply to this streamlined process. Please see the attached verification.

<u>Copy of Notice To Be Sent to Affected Subscribers</u>: A draft of the notice to be sent to affected subscribers is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela F. Collins

Counsel for Birch Communications, Inc.

Attachments

## Verification

I, Christopher J. Bunce, Senior Vice President, Legal, General Counsel of Birch Communications, Inc., Birch Telecom, Inc., and their subsidiaries, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the statements in the foregoing filing are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:

Christopher J. Bunce

Senior Vice President, Legal, General Counsel



Dear



## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING A CHANGE IN YOUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Birch Communications ("Bird	h") and dishNE	√ Wireline L.L.C.
 700 to 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	•	

d/b/a Liberty-Bell Telecom ("Liberty-Bell") are pleased to announce that Birch is acquiring Liberty-Bell's local telephone and long distance telephone customers, as well as certain other customers receiving additional types of services from Liberty-Bell. Subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission and state regulators as necessary, Birch will replace Liberty-Bell as your current telecommunications service provider on or after [30 DAYS AFTER LETTER DATE], 2014 (the "Transfer Date"). As a result of this transaction, Birch will assume responsibility for all services previously provided to you by Liberty-Bell. Birch is excited about the opportunity to provide your telecommunications service(s) and looks forward to a long and mutually rewarding business relationship.

Please rest assured, the transition will have little or no impact on your current services, nor will there be any interruption of your service. The agreement between Birch and Liberty-Bell has been structured so that the transfer of service will be virtually seamless, other than the possibility of a minor change to your voice mail service for which you will receive additional information. There, however, may be other changes to your service plan based on Birch's unique billing systems (e.g., customers currently utilizing a message or measured local service plan may be switched to a flat rate plan). In those cases, Birch will transition you in a neutral manner with no increase to your regular monthly recurring charges. You will retain all other service rates, features, terms, and conditions of service and your telephone number. Birch will not impose any charges for the transfer of your services to Birch and no action is required from you to continue your telecommunications service(s) with Birch. You will receive your first billing statement from Birch starting with your [MONTH] 2014 or [MONTH] 2014 bill. As in the past, you are responsible for paying all bills rendered to you by Liberty-Bell during the transition of service.<sup>2</sup>

It will be necessary for you to reset your password and re-record your message greeting(s). Additionally, saved messages at the time of the transfer will no longer be retained. Birch will provide further details in a follow-up letter.

Those customers interested in setting up online payments will be pleased to know Birch offers online payments and account updates.

You do have the right to select a different carrier for your telecommunications service(s). If you choose to switch to an alternate carrier for services, you may incur a fee from that alternate carrier for the transfer of services to that alternate carrier. If you select a local telephone service provider other than Birch, you should also contact your current long distance provider to ensure that your current long distance plan is not changed. Please note that if you are a customer of Liberty-Bell on the Transfer Date as set forth above, your account will automatically be transferred to Birch. In addition, should you have a term commitment with Liberty-Bell and you disconnect or transfer services to another carrier prior to the end of that term, you will be liable to Birch for any applicable early termination charges, subject to applicable law. Please note that when your service is transferred to Birch, any preferred carrier "freeze" you have placed on your existing telephone lines to prevent unauthorized transfer of your services to another carrier will be over-ridden for purposes of this transaction and will need to be reinstated by you by contacting Birch after the transfer is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this transaction or questions about your service or billing prior to the Transfer Date set forth above, you should contact Liberty-Bell at: 866-664-BELL (2355).

If you have any questions regarding this transaction, or questions about your service or billing after the Transfer Date set forth above, you should contact Birch at 888-772-4724.<sup>3</sup>

Liberty-Bell thanks you for your business and Birch looks forward to providing you with quality service for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Liberty-Bell Telecom and Birch Communications

About Birch Communications - Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Birch Communications is one of the largest competitive local exchange carriers operating nationwide serving residential and business customers. Birch was the first in its class to deploy its own private IP network utilizing soft switch technology to deliver innovative, high quality, affordable voice and broadband communications services to small- and medium-sized business customers.